

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 CU-02 EB-07 AID-05
/102 W

-----180732Z 056853 /11

R 171723Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1431
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LISBON 3928

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PO
SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: AZORES SEPARATISTS

REF: (A) LISBON 3888 (DTG 161702Z MAY 77)(NOTAL),
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(B) LISBON 3797 (DTG 130837Z MAY 77)(NOTAL),
(C) PONTA DELGADA 172 (DTG 162200Z MAY 77)(NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE MAY 14-15 WEEKEND INCIDENTS ON THE AZORES
INVOLVING THE SEPARATIST FLAG WERE AGAIN THE SUBJECT OF ATTACKS
AND COUNTERATTACKS BY THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT, THE PS,
AND PSD. THE PSD HAS SOUGHT TO DOWNPLAY THE

INCIDENTS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE PARTY'S LEADERSHIP OF THE AZORES AND TO AVOID INJURING ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT EANES. THE INCIDENT WILL, HOWEVER, DAMAGE THE PSD'S STANDING IN MAINLAND PORTUGAL. END SUMMARY.

1. AZORES CALM, INCIDENT REVERBERATES: WHILE CALM HAD RETURNED TO THE AZORES BY MAY 16, REACTIONS TO THE SEPARATIST VIOLENCE (REFS A AND B) CONTINUED TO REVERBERATE. THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS WERE MADE REGARDING THE AZORES INCIDENTS:

- AZOREANS CLAIM DISTORTION: THE AZOREAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT DEPLORED THE VIOLENT INCIDENTS AND REPUDIATED "LISBON'S DISTORTION OF THE INCIDENTS AS PART OF A DIVERSIONARY MANEUVER IN WHICH THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC WAS INVOLVED."
- PS HITS SA CARNEIRO: THE PS SECRETARIAT CONDEMNED THE AMBIGUITY OF PSD LEADER SA CARNEIRO'S COMMENTS ON THE INCIDENTS AND HIGHLIGHTED THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE POSITIONS OF SA CARNEIRO AND PRESIDENT EANES.
- PSD SEES PS PLOT: SA CARNEIRO, FOLLOWING HIS MAY 16 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT EANES, TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE AZOREAN INCIDENTS WERE BEING EXPLOITED. SA CARNEIRO CANCELLED HIS VISIT TO THE AZORES, SAID IT WAS NO LONGER NEEDED. PSD VICE PRESIDENT RUI MACHETE TOLD EMBOFF LATE MAY 16 THAT THE AZORES INCIDENT HAD BEEN FOMENTED BY THE PS AND MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC GALVAO DE FIGUEIREDO. MACHETE SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD TOLD SA CARNEIRO EARLIER MAY 16 THAT THE INCIDENT WAS NOW CLOSED.

2. UNIVERSITY TENSIONS RISE: A NATIONAL MEETING OF STUDENTS DECIDED TO STAGE A ONE-DAY STRIKE IN THE UNIVERSITIES
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OF OPORTO AND LISBON MAY 17 TO PROTEST THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION'S POLICIES. THE FOLLOWING EVENTS OVER THE PAST MONTH LED TO THE CONFRONTATION:

- THE EDUCATION MINISTRY CLOSED THE COIMBRA SCIENCE FACULTY WHEN ITS FAR-LEFT DIRECTORATE REFUSED TO TAKE BACK SEVERAL PUGED PROFESSORS. THE FAR-LEFT CONTROLLED UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA ACADEMIC ASSOCIATION, IN MEETINGS ATTENDED BY A MINORITY OF STUDENTS, DECLARED AN INDEFINITE STRIKE OF ALL COIMBRA FACULTIES TO PROTEST CLOSURE OF THE SCIENCE FACULTY.
- THE EDUCATION MINISTER CLOSED THE UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA MAY 13.
- MINISTER SCOTTOMAYOR CARDIA PROMISED IN A TELEVISED ADDRESS MAY 14 NOT TO REOPEN THE UNIVERSITY UNTIL A POLL OF STUDENTS CONDUCTED BY THE MINISTRY DEMONSTRATED STUDENT READINESS TO ACCEPT HIS TERMS. HE ALSO VOWED TO STICK TA TOUGH EXAM SCHEDULE WHICH HAS PROVOKED PROTESTS AT THE PSYCHOLOGY FACULTY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OPORTO.
- SOCIALIST AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS ISSUED STATEMENTS SUPPORTING THE MINISTER.

3. CUNHAL HITS GOVERNMENT: COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER ALVARO CUNHAL TOLD THE PARTY FAITHFUL IN A MAY 16 RALLY THAT OPPOSITION WAS GROWING DAILY TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-WORKER POLICIES. HE CRITICIZED THE SUBMISSION TO "BLACKMAIL AND PRESSURES OF CAPITALIST COUNTRIES." CUNHAL WARNED ALSO AGAINST "THE ADVENTURISM AND PROVOCATIONS OF REVOLUTIONARY TERRORISM."

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4. ARABS ON RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL: THE EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE ARAB LEAGUE EXCHANGED COMMUNICATIONS REGARDING PORTUGAL'S OPENING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL (REF B). THE SUBSTANCE OF THE EXCHANGE WAS THAT EGYPT HAD MADE REPRE-

SENTATIONS TO THE PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES AND URGED ARAB LEAGUE
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MEMBERS TO UNDERTAKE URGENT CONTACTS WITH THE GOP "IN ORDER
AT LEAST TO DELAY THE PORTUGUESE ACTION." PORTUGUESE FONMIN
REACTED BY LABELLING THE MAY 12 DECISION AN "IRREVERSIBLE FACT."

5. SPANISH FISHING BOAT INCIDENT: ON MAY 16, A PORTUGUESE NAVY
PATROL BOAT PURSUED AND FIRED UPON A SPANISH FISHING BOAT
ALLEGEDLY FISHING ILLEGALLY IN PORTUGUESE WATERS.
TWO WERE KILLED AND ONE INJURED ON THE FISHING BOAT, WHICH
TOOK REFUGE IN THE SPANISH PORT OF HUELVA. THE PORTUGUESE
NAVY STATED THAT THE SHOTS WERE INTENDED AS A
WARNING AND HAD GONE ASTRAY. THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR IN
PORTUGAL MET WITH THE PORTUGUESE FONMIN MAY 16 TO REQUEST
EXPLANATIONS. COMING SHORTLY BEFORE PRESIDENT EANES'S MAY 23
VISIT TO SPAIN, THE INCIDENT HAS THE GOP WORRIED.

6. COMMENT: THE NATIONAL PSD HAS SOUGHT TO DOWNPLAY THE
AZOREAN SEPARATIST INCIDENTS IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE PARTY
LEADERSHIP IN THE AZORES AND TO AVOID INJURING THE MAINLAND PSD
RELATIONSHIP WITH PRESIDENT EANES. WHATEVER THE FACTS IN
THE AFFAIR, THE PSD IS LIKELY TO EMERGE WITH ITS STANDING
IN MAINLAND PORTUGAL DAMAGED.
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Message Attributes

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